

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL MEMORANDUM

HB 285 – SB 238

April 23, 2010

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (016378): Deletes all language after the enacting clause of the original bill. Requires the Commissioner of Education, the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, the University of Tennessee (UT), and the Tennessee Board of Regents to work with the Confucius Institutes at the University of Tennessee and Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) to establish Chinese classrooms in public K-12 schools and public colleges and universities. Requires the Commissioner of Education and the executive director of THEC to make a report on the progress made toward the establishment of Chinese classrooms throughout the state and cost savings achieved to the Education Committees of the General Assembly by February 1, 2011.

FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

Increase State Expenditures – Not Significant

Increase Local Expenditures - Exceeds \$388,800/Permissive

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

Increase State Expenditures – Not Significant

Increase Local Expenditures – Exceeds \$388,800*

Assumptions applied to amendment:

- The department of education has adopted national curriculum standards for foreign language that include Chinese. A curriculum will not have to be developed.
- After work with MTSU and UT, Chinese instruction will be offered in local education agencies. The exact number of Chinese courses that will be offered is unknown, however it is reasonably estimated that one-third of all high schools (approximately 108) in Tennessee will offer a one section, two-year course in Chinese.
- Textbooks will be purchased by local governments. Textbooks will cost approximately \$60 per book and approximately \$1,800 per class (\$60 x 30 students) Increase in expenditures per each two-year section will be approximately \$3,600 (\$1,800 x 2). Total increase in local expenditures for 108 high schools will be approximately

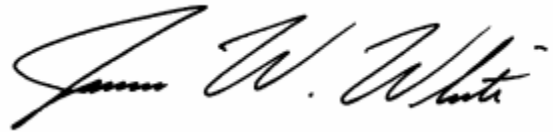
\$388,800 (108 x \$3,600). Total cost may exceed this amount if more high schools or middle schools institute courses in Chinese.

- No change in the BEP formula.
- Any textbook review will be done within the normal cycle and will not require any additional increase in state expenditures for travel.
- Additional teachers will not be hired.
- Any increase in state expenditures to work with MTSU and UT to establish Chinese classrooms and to write a report on the outcome of this work is estimated to be not significant.

**Article II, Section 24 of the Tennessee Constitution provides that: no law of general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or counties unless the General Assembly shall provide that the state share in the cost.*

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James W. White". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" written in a stylized, elongated script, followed by "W." and "White".

James W. White, Executive Director

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